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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 AID-05 TRSE-00 MCT-01
/088 W
----------172246Z 113567 /73
R 162132Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3520

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 2886

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, NU
SUBJECT: MASSERA ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ARGENTINA

REF: (A) MANAGUA 2884; (B) BUENOS AIRES 4362

1. ON EVENING OF JUNE 14, FOLLOWING BANQUET, CHARGE SPOKE BRIEFLY WITH ADMIRAL MASSERA REGARDING THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ARGENTINA.

2. MASSERA SAID HE AND MANY ARGENTINES DO NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND THE HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION. HE SAID HE AGREES WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY BUT THAT CIRCUMSTANCES ARE SUCH IN ARGENTINA THAT "THE IDEAL" CANNOT BE ACCOMPLISHED RIGHT NOW. HE SAID THAT BECAUSE OF HIS TRAINING AND EXPOSURE TO AMERICA AND AMERICANS HE IS STILL VERY FRIENDLY TOWARDS US, BUT SAID IF HE WANTED TO MAKE A DEMOGOGIC ANTI-CARTER OR ANTI-AMERICAN CAMPAIGN, HE WOULD BE SUPPORTED BY THE VAST MAJORITY OF ARGENTINES. HE SAID THAT BOB HILL AND JOHN LODGE (FORMER AMBASSADORS DURING THE NIXON AND FORD ADMINISTRATIONS) UNDERSTOOD THE SITUATION VIS-A-VIS TERRORISM IN ARGENTINA, BUT THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON HAS NOT BEEN AS UNDERSTANDING. HE THINKS, HOWEVER, THAT THE SITUATION BOTH IN ARGENTINA AND IN U.S.-ARGENTINA RE-
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LATIONS IS IMPROVING. HE SAID HE HAS WORKED MANY YEARS WITH LABOR UNIONS AND THAT HE ESTIMATES THAT ABOUT 80 PERCENT OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT NOW SUPPORTS HIM (AND THE GOVERNMENT). HE SAID THAT THERE ARE MANY MOONTONEROS IN JAIL IN ARGENTINA BUT THAT THEIR NAMES CANNOT BE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF FEARS FOR THEIR PERSONAL SAFETY; HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THREE MONTONEROS WHO HAVE BEEN HELPFUL TO THE GOVERNMENT AND WHO ARE SCHEDULED

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FOR RELEASE BUT DO NOT WANT THEIR FREEDOM AT THIS TIME FOR FEAR THEY WILL BE KILLED. MASSERA SAID HE WAS GLAD THAT MRS. CARTER DID NOT INCLUDE ARGENTINA ON HER RECENT TRIP BECAUSE SHE PROBABLY WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY WELL RECEIVED. HE SAID THEY HAVE HAD BAD EXPERIENCE IN THE RECENT PAST WITH FIRST LADIES AND THEN SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED BOTH ISABEL PERON AND EVA PERON.

3. BUENOS AIRES PROMPT AND COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST FOR BIO-DATA ON MASSERA GREATLY APPRECIATED.
RUBENSTEIN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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